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State Superintendent of Public Instruction

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION

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April 25, 2003

Dear District and County Superintendents:

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. The goal of this legislation is to support academic achievement for young people by creating safe and drug-free environments for learning. The California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) have partnered to secure funding for California by developing a common application for the receipt of Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) funds as required by Title IV, Part A of the NCLB Act. Our agencies are working together to foster safe and drug-free learning environments, increase participation from parents, and coordinate school and community efforts and resources. The purpose of this letter is to encourage local collaboration between school and community agencies in their efforts to prevent youth substance use.

The ADP is initiating a competitive grant program for a portion of the SDFSC funds. The grants will be made available to county alcohol and drug administrators across California. The grant recipients will be working closely with the local educational agencies (LEAs) in their communities to collaborate on planning and initiating effective programs. In addition, the programs will seek to provide services to young people outside of the school day and not normally served in our educational system, such as students who have dropped out of school, homeless youth, and incarcerated youth.

Collaboration at the local level should focus on ensuring that school-based and community-based prevention activities are integrated, cohesive, and mutually supportive. Students receiving school-based prevention services are still subject to community-based risk factors when they are not in school. To be effective, all programs, including those serving out-of-school youth, require close collaboration between school and community agencies. Most out-of-school youth are part of a very fluid pattern spending time in school, in dropout recovery programs, in other alternative education settings, and on the street.

School districts will continue to receive SDFSC entitlement funds based on a formula grant. The funds must be used in keeping with the principles of effectiveness.

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Both school-based prevention programs and community-based prevention efforts must be based on scientific research that provides evidence that the program to be used will reduce violence and illegal drug use.

You or your staff may be contacted by your county's Alcohol and Drug Program administrator in the near future to collaborate in the planning and development of the county's application for SDFSC funds available from the ADP. Your collaboration will increase resources and demonstrate the effectiveness of our efforts. A listing of county alcohol and drug program administrators can be found at www.adp.ca.gov. It is our hope that LEAs and county alcohol and drug program organizations will work together to create programs that have demonstrated a positive impact on our youth. Together we will provide California youth with safe and drug-free environments for learning.

If you have any questions about the ADP's competitive grant process, please contact the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Prevention Services Division at 916-324-4398. If you have questions about the school, district, or county educational role in this process, please contact your Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office regional consultant at 916-319-0920.

Sincerely,



SUE STICKEL
Deputy Superintendent
California Department of Education



MICHAEL S. CUNNINGHAM
Deputy Director
California Department of Alcohol and Drug
Programs

cc: California County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators